Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 IO-10 AECE-00

OIC-02 /101 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5696

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAL, ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: MODALITIES FOR GOF-IEA CONSULTATION

REF: A. PARIS 30607; B. STATE 279256

1. FOLLOWING GOF PRESENTATION ON GOLD (SEPTEL) FOR WHICH HE HAD ASKED ECON/COM MIN TO CALL JANUARY 8, CONFIDENTIAL

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DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S CABINET ULRICH NOTED THAT

HE WOULD BE HAVING LUNCH SAME DAY WITH DAVIGNON. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION WHETHER PURPOSE OF LUNCH WAS TO SET UP ARRANGEMENT FOR COORDINATING GOF-IEA POSITIONS ON CONSUMER SOLIDARITY THROUGH DAVIGNON, ULRICH SAID THAT GOF PREFERRED TO DO THIS THROUGH AD HOC GROUP TO BE CREATED IN OECD, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE SOME OTHER NON-IEA COUNTRIES. ECON/COM MIN TOLD ULRICH THAT USG PREFERRED DIRECT COORDINATION THROUGH DAVIGNON, WHO HAD BEEN DESIGNATED BY IEA MEMBERS FOR THAT ROLE.

- 2. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH ECON/COM MIN, CABOUAT, DEPUTY TO BRUNET AT MFA, CONFIRMED ULRICH'S POSITION. CABOUAT SAID GOF FULLY PREPARED TO USE DAVIGNON AS SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON IEA DELIBERATIONS. HOWEVER, REAL "CONCERTATION" MUST INVOLVE SOME GIVE AND TAKE ON SPECIFICS OF CONSUMER POSITIONS AS THEY DEVE-LOPED AND GOF WOULD FIND IT TOO CONSTRAINING TO NEGOTIATE WITH DAVIGNON, WHO PRESUMABLY COULD ONLY ACT AS CHANNEL FOR VIEWS OF AGENCY MEMBERS. INSTEAD, GOF WANTED TO BE ABLE TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH MAJOR CONSUMERS. IN PARTICULAR U.S. HENCE ITS PREFERENCE FOR AD HOC GROUP IN OECD. IN RESPONSE TO OUR OUESTIONS, CABOUAT SAID THAT GOF HAS NOT DEVELOPED ITS IDEA TO POINT OF SUGGESTING POSSIBLE MEMBERS OF AD HOC GROUP, NOR IS GOF YET BEING BRIEFED IN ANY SYSTEMATIC WAY BY EC PARTNERS ON DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN IEA. HE AGREED THAT IT IS IMPOR-TANT TO FIND FORMULA SOON FOR GOF-IEA COORDINATION.
- 3. ON SUBSTANCE OF CONSUMER POSITIONS, CABOUAT NOTED THAT QUESTIONS OF FINANCIAL SOLIDARITY LIKELY TO BE DEALT WITH SATISFACTORILY IN G-10 CONTEXT. ON ENERGY CONSERVATION QUESTIONS, GOF POLICIES WOULD CLEARLY PARALLEL IEA EFFORTS BUT -- IN ANSWER TO OUR QUESTION -- HE AGREED THAT MECHANISM NECESSARY TO LINK THE TWO. ON DEVELOPING NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY, CABOUAT SAID, GOF (AND EC AS A BODY) WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT INTEREST IN MAKING CONTRIBUTION TO DISCUSSION OF "ENDERS PLAN."
- 4. ASSUMING THAT SATISFACTORY PROGRESS COULD BE MADE ON ALL THREE FRONTS BY MID-FEBRUARY, CABOUAT SAID, GOF CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS ANXIOUS TO KNOW USG THINKING ON FORM OF INVITATIONS, PARTICIPANTS, ETC., FOR PREPARATORY CONFERENCE. ECON/

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COM MIN NOTED THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD FOLLOW ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSUMER SOLIDARITY, FOR WHICH ESSENTIAL NOW TO DEVELOP MODALITIES FOR GOF-IEA COORDINATION.

5. ECON/COM MIN CALLED ULRICH MORNING OF JANUARY 9 TO FIND OUT HOW CONVERSATION WITH DAVIGNON HAD GONE. CONFIDENTIAL

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA AMEMBASSY ROME AMEMBASSY TOKYO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS USMISSION OECD PARIS PAGE 02 PARIS 00578 02 OF 02 091310Z

ULRICH SAID IT HAD BEEN INCONCLUSIVE. DAVIGNON HAD PROPOSED HIMSELF AS LINK BETWEEN GOF AND IEA. ULRICH, WHILE AFFIRMING STRONG FRENCH COMMITMENT TO CONSUMER SOLIDARITY PURSUANT TO MARTINIQUE COMMUNIQUE, SAID THAT GOF COULD NOT ACCEPT THIS FORMULA. DAVIGNON SAID HE WOULD REFLECT ON THE GOF POSITION, REPORT THE CONVERSATION TO THE IEA, AND SEEK FURTHER GUIDANCE. ULRICH SAID THEY BOTH AGREED ON THE NEED TO SETTLE THE QUESTION RAPIDLY AND TO ESTABLISH FULL CONSUMER SOLIDARITY IN ORDER TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO MEET THE MARCH DEADLINE FOR THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE.

6. ECON/COM MIN AGAIN EXPRESSED TO ULRICH U.S. POSITION AS STATED REF B. ULRICH SAID THIS PROCEDURE WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR GOF TO ACCEPT BUT SAID THE FRENCH WOULD LIKE TO REFLECT ON THE MATTER FURTHER AND GET IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY, PROBABLY THROUGH BRUNET, NEXT WEEK.

7. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO SWAY FRENCH FROM THEIR PREFERENCE FOR AD HOC GROUP (AN IDEA WHICH CLEARLY EMANATES FROM BROSSOLETTE - REF A). BUT IT MAY STILL BE POSSIBLE TO EXERT LEVERAGE ON THEM IF WE ACT PROMPTLY. DEPT'S GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTED. AT A MINIMUM, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT GOF WILL NOT AGREE TO DAVIGNON CHANNEL UNLESS SOME WAY IS FOUND TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR DESIRE FOR DIRECT GIVE AND TAKE WITH U.S. AND OTHER KEY MEMBERS OF IEA AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THIS CHANNEL.

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TAGS: EALR, ENRG, FR, IEA, OECD To: STATE

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